

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00709 181454Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1517

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0709

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RH, US

SUBJECT: MUZOREWA CONCERNED ABOUT ENTANGLEMENTS WITH COMMUNIST STATES

1. CHARGE HAD HOUR-LONG CONVERSATION AT STATE HOUSE APRIL 15 WITH RHODESIAN AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL (ANC) CHAIRMAN BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA AT LATTER'S INITIATIVE. MUZOREWA, RECALLING HIS FIVE YEARS SPENT IN US AND SPEAKING OF THE PRECIOUSNESS AND SPECIAL NATURE OF AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY, SAID IT SURPRISING TO HIM AMERICANS DID NOT SEEM TAKE SOUTHERN AFRICA PROBLEM VERY SERIOUSLY. HE URGED FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF UN SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA BY REPEAL OF BYRD AMENDMENT-- "A TEMPORARY SACRIFICE"--AND MILDLY INDICATED US FINANCIAL

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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00709 181454Z

SUPPORT, E.G., FOR OPERATION OF NEW ANC OFFICES IN DAR AND

LUSAKA, WOULD BE MOST WELCOME. SUCH HELP "INSIDE RHODESIA" WOULD ALSO BE WELCOME BUT MUZOREWA WAS NOT MORE SPECIFIC AND DID NOT PRESS ISSUE. CHARGE REPLIED THAT CONGRESSIONAL EFFORT TO REPEAL BYRD AMENDMENT IS UNDERWAY AND IN CIRCUMSTANCES SEEMS MOST IMPORTANT THING USG COULD DO TO HELP ANC. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SHOULD PROBABLY BE SOUGHT FROM PRIVATE SOURCES IN FIRST INSTANCE; US ATTENTION PRESENTLY FOCUSED ON DOMESTIC ECONOMY AND INDO-CHINA, BUT AFRICAN MAJORITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND, AT THIS TIME, ESPECIALLY IN RHODESIA ENJOYS CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY AMONG AFRICANS.

2. BISHOP WORRIED SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION LEADERSHIP WILL CONTINUE LOOK FOR ASSISTANCE WHEREVER THEY CAN GET IT, SPECIFICALLY FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, NAMELY USSR AND CHINA WHICH CAN BE COUNTED ON TO RESPOND. LONG-TIME ZANU AND ZAPU LEADERS HAD CONNECTIONS WITH EAST FOR MANY YEARS AND IT NORMAL AND NATURAL FOR THEM CONTINUE TURN IN THAT DIRECTION. AS FOR HIMSELF, MUZOREWA WAS RELATIVELY NEWCOMER TO NATIONALIST EFFORT, HAD NO SUCH COMMUNIST CONNECTIONS AND DID NOT WANT THEM. WHAT BOTHERED HIM WAS "EASTERN" INFLUENCE HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF VIOLENT SOLUTION TO SOUTHERN AFRICANS PROBLEMS. HIS OWN PURPOSE IS TO FORGE NATIONALIST UNITY AND ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT WITH LEAST POSSIBLE BLOODSHED OR PREFERABLY NO BLOODSHED AT ALL. HOWEVER, PRESSURE FOR VIOLENCE IS UNFORTUNATELY MOUNTING. HE WARNED AGAINST AMERICAN MISINTERPRETATION OF NATIONALIST DEMANDS FOR CHANGE AND END TO COLONIAL AND MINORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AS COMMUNIST-INSPIRED AND LED. SUCH THINKING AND POLICIES BASED ON IT WOULD SURELY OPEN AFRICA EVEN WIDER TO COMMUNIST INFLUENCE.

3. TIMING FOR MUZOREWA TRIP TO US NOT YET CERTAIN. HE HAD HOPED TO COMBINE BUSINESS, DEFINED AS "OUR CURRENT STRUGGLE", WITH ATTENDANCE AT GRADUATION OF HIS SON FROM MOUNT UNION COLLEGE IN OHIO THIS JUNE. OBLIGATIONS OF HIS CURRENT POLITICAL ROLE OBVIOUSLY HAVE PRIORITY AND WILL DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT HE CAN MAKE TRIP. HE WOULD LET US KNOW, PROBABLY THROUGH EMB BLANTYRE.

4. THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION, OTHER PORTIONS OF WHICH BEING REPORTED SEPTEL, MUZOREWA WAS QUITE DISPASSIONATE AND MATTER OF FACT. HE DID NOT PRESS OR INSIST ON ANYTHING AND AT POINTS WAS INDEFINITE AND INDIRECT, APPARENTLY ASSUMING HIS MEANING WAS OBVIOUS. AT OUTSET
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PAGE 03 LUSAKA 00709 181454Z

HE SAID HE HAD ASKED CHARGE TO COME BY SO HE COULD HAVE "CHAT WITH A FRIEND" ABOUT SOME THINGS ON HIS MIND AND THAT ESSENTIALLY IS WHAT CONVERSATION AMOUNTED TO.

5. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS TWO DAYS LATER, ANOTHER ANC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER, JAMES CHICKEREMA, MADE OFF-THE-CUFF AND NOT REALLY SERIOUS PITCH FOR US MILITARY AID TO ANC, INDICATING CONCERN THAT OTHERWISE ANC WOULD BE DEPENDENT UPON COMMUNIST STATES

FOR ARMS. EMBOFFS POINTED OUT THAT CURRENT MOOD IN US AND ESPECIALLY IN CONGRESS MADE IT UNLIKELY USG WOULD SEND ARMS OR OTHERWISE INVOLVE ITSELF IN THE VIOLENT ASPECTS OF CONFLICT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. CHICKEREMA SAID WITH SMILE HE HAD EXPECTED SUCH REPLY AND UNDERSTOOD IT. HE DID NOT PRESS POINT.

6. COMMENT: PLAINLY MUZOREWA WOULD LIKE BALANCE LONG-ESTABLISHED ZIMBABWE NATIONALIST INVOLVEMENTS WITH COMMUNIST SUPPORT BY SOME FORM OF WESTERN ASSOCIATION AND ASSISTANCE. THOUGH HE DID NOT DWELL ON THE QUESTION, CHICKEREMA SEEMS TO BE OF LIKE MIND. WHAT USG MIGHT DO TO AID ANC AND HELP ENSURE CONTINUATION OF MODERATE LEADERSHIP LIKELY BE ONE OF SUBJECTS TO WHICH MUZOREWA HOPES ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN IN DEPT IF HE IN FACT ABLE TO VISIT US IN NEAR FUTURE.
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